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# The Highlander

Thursday **January 14, 2021** | Issue 473

**INSIDE: COVID-19 BUSINESS ADVISORIES PAGE 19**

**FREE**



## Haliburton rink returns

Dysart et al announced the opening of its outdoor rink Jan. 11, with young and old alike enjoying the space. However, due to COVID protocols, distancing is required from people outside your household and hockey is disallowed.

Kai Clendening enjoys skating at the outdoor rink in Haliburton, which opened this week with COVID protocols. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

## County braces to stay home

**By Joseph Quigley**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County is readying to stay at home after an order from Premier Doug Ford Jan. 12 due to rising COVID-19 rates province-wide.

The provincial government issued a state of emergency and stay-at-home order, which will remain in effect for 28 days, demanding people keep put except for critical trips such as grocery shopping, medical appointments, or essential work. Anyone who can work at home must also now do so.

The move comes in response to projections from medical officials which foretell the health system being overwhelmed within weeks. Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health unit acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, said Jan. 13 the order was critical to control the virus.

"Maybe it should have been put into effect sooner, but these are decisions that are difficult to make and I don't fault anybody for this," he said. "Without it, we would be in very serious condition four weeks from now ... The most important thing is sending the right message to the public. This is serious."

Outdoor gatherings will be limited to five people with limited exceptions. The province also indicated it will put a temporary moratorium on residential evictions.

Most local construction can continue. For example, residential builds that had footing permits and had started construction before Jan. 12 can go on. School children when they return will have to wear masks in Grades 1-3 and outdoors at school.

Continued 'OPP' on page 2

## Drugs and property crime go hand-in-hand

### HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

**By Lisa Gervais**

On the night of Dec. 9, 2020, two masked suspects entered the Haliburton Highland Pharmacy on Highland Street. Brandishing a firearm, they demanded, and received, narcotics. They then fled the scene.

The OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit, Canine, Emergency Response Unit and Forensic Identification Services all swarmed the site.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts happened to be driving by and saw the large police presence. She knew something was up.

Roberts said in her opinion, drug-related crime in Haliburton County "has most definitely gone up."

She also thinks thieves are becoming more brazen.

She said people with drug problems are not new to the County, but what is disturbing is the organized crime element

she is now witnessing.

"It's disconcerting. I have not seen that type of thing in Haliburton County before," she said.

Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, Liane Spong, said when it comes to drug-related theft, "It's about availability. It's about quick cash. It's about feeding that addiction. It's all very interrelated. We try to tackle it with a multi-faceted approach and hit it all."

Continued 'Thieves' on page 15

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Acting medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, is urging locals to follow health protocols. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

## OPP, bylaw can enforce order

Continued from page 1

The province said it will empower law enforcement to enforce the order. However, in an FAQ released Jan. 13, it said it would not strictly define what qualifies as "an essential trip."

"The Government of Ontario cannot determine what is essential for every person in this province, each with their own unique circumstances," the document said. "We have provided broad categories that people should consider before leaving their home."

The FAQ also said Ontario is not recommending intra-provincial travel to a cottage, but an essential trip could include emergency maintenance of a secondary residence.

The County has nine cases confirmed over the last two weeks, but only two of them were considered active as of Jan. 13. There were also 32 active cases in Kawartha Lakes and 30 in Northumberland.

Gemmill said that even with low case counts in Haliburton, people should act responsibly.

"We know every winter's virus will reach all areas. I think for that reason, people in no area should think 'we should not have to worry about this'," Gemmill said. "The only time we will be able to relax about this is once we have the vaccine to as many arms as possible."

Local businesses began reacting to the news and evaluating what it means

for them. The Haliburton County Development Corporation said it would continue to help businesses with relief programs and remains open as an essential service under a locked door policy.

"Today's news was not easy to take. However, we will get through this. Together," the corporation said.

Gemmill said stopping travel and gatherings is critical to preventing the spread. He said although diminished hospital capacity is more of an issue in larger centres, the district is not immune.

"We may not be in that position, but it is fully in the realm of possibility that if things go out of control, we could be."



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# Highlander news



OPSEU has purchased the former Frost Centre for \$3.2 million. *File photo.*

## OPSEU plans 'to breathe new life' into Frost Centre

By Lisa Gervais

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) has purchased the Leslie M. Frost Centre in Algonquin Highlands.

OPSEU announced its acquisition of the land and buildings, for \$3.2 million, in a Jan. 8 press release, saying, "Haliburton's historic Frost Centre is set for new life and a major lift as OPSEU/SEFPOs newest member resource and training centre."

OPSEU represents 170,000 front-line public sector workers.

It said the centre, which has long remained unused, will now serve as a training site for members of the union and their families.

"The property is an absolute gem," said OPSEU president Warren Thomas. "From training forest rangers in the 1920s to training our members and leaders in the 2020s, this property will serve OPSEU/SEFPOs hardworking members so that they can continue to support our province, its people and its economy."

Located on the shores of St. Nora Lake, the Frost Centre used to be a world-renowned location for forest fire training. More recently, the Ontario government decided to permanently close its doors.

Union vice-president and treasurer,

Eduardo Almeida, said preserving the integrity of the site is of the utmost importance to the union.

"We've got a huge opportunity but also a real duty here," he said. "A duty to preserve the property's integrity, respect the environment and be good to neighbours working closely with the rural community in Haliburton County."

"We look forward to joining our community partners to reinvigorate the Frost Centre," Almeida added.

He said they knew the centre's history and its true value and are committed to breathing new life and purpose into the property, to serve its members and the broader community.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said she received a call from Thomas Dec. 7.

She said, "The revitalization of the historic property as an educational facility will provide many employment opportunities across a range of fields."

"President Thomas and I spoke of the many opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the facility and the community at large; and I look forward to helping broker some local connections."

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# Highlander news

## County projects 3.86 per cent levy increase

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The County's 2021 budget started with a projection of a 3.86 per cent property levy increase due to cost pressures ranging from infrastructure to insurance to shoreline bylaw enforcement.

Council did its first line-by-line review of the budget Jan. 11 and expects to pass the final version in February or March.

CAO Mike Rutter said several cost pressures, as well as service-level enhancements, have led to the increase.

"We do know this is a very challenging year and that may result in more changes than we've seen in the past. Staff understand our work is not necessarily done," Rutter said. "A 3.86 per cent increase is a challenge in the current economic climate, there's no doubt."

Staff identified several new expenses contributing to the increase, including \$88,000 for a new shoreline preservation bylaw officer, a \$77,892 increase in insurance costs, \$66,000 for a development charges study, a \$50,000 increase in the insurance deductible, \$50,000 more for physician recruitment, a provincially mandated \$46,344 increase in the municipal transfer to the health unit and a \$33,725 increase to employee benefits.

Rutter also said there is some pressure with reduced funding from upper-level governments, such as a \$36,200 reduction in the Ontario Municipal Partnership

Fund, the main provincial assistance grant to municipalities. But he added COVID-associated funding from those governments - such as \$287,000 from the province under the Safe Restart Agreement - has helped.

"Without the safe restart money and the COVID money that the federal and provincial governments have provided us, this would be a very different-looking budget," Rutter said. "While we will talk about some funding reductions, the government has certainly come through for us in other ways."

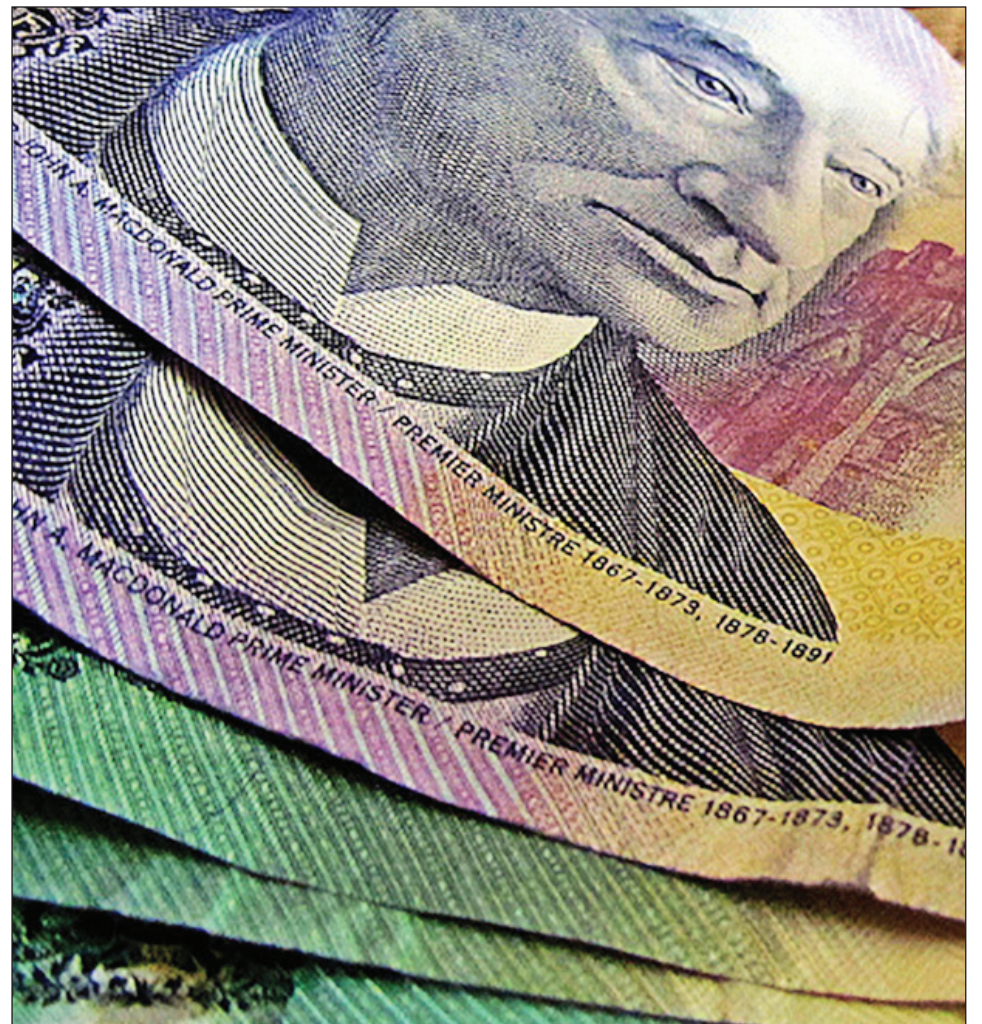
Staff plan to have council review the budget over the next few regular meetings, until the council is comfortable approving it.

Coun. Carol Moffatt said she hopes that format does not overly hasten the process and council questions the budget.

"It would be very easy to just not ask a lot of questions," Moffatt said. "We haven't had a lot of questions today; I'm hoping because our wheels are all turning with this first look."

Coun. Andrea Roberts attributed the lack of questions to staff and council being aligned.

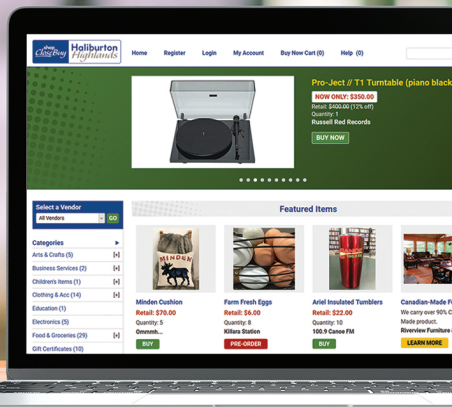
"This is the third budget that this council has gone through together. So much is from council direction from our strategic plan for this term," Roberts said. "It goes to show how staff and council are working in tandem ... I think we're really close and I think we're going to just be fine-tuning some things."



The County is budgeting for a 3.86 per cent property levy increase. *File photo.*

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# Highlander news

## Dysart sewer questions pause road projects

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart council agreed to pause any major road projects within Haliburton village until it makes decisions on future sewer line expansion.

Staff presented its proposed slate of road resurfacing projects for 2021 at a special budget meeting Jan. 11. The slate is not finalized but featured more than 30 kilometres of roads receiving surface treatment for \$1.5 million in total.

Included in the list were several roads within Haliburton village, including parts of Highland Street, Mountain Street, Park Street and Pine Avenue.

But Coun. John Smith said such work should be delayed, given the possibility of future sewer line work.

"The ghost of my dad is going to say, 'my God, don't resurface those roads and then go out in a year or two and tear it up,'" Smith said. "People will think we got nothing but money."

Dysart's service delivery review presented last September proposed long-term planning on the sewer system and an expanded line. Council has yet to make any decisions on the idea.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said regular maintenance could continue in the meantime.

"We're still patching, we're still fixing potholes," Roberts said. "But we really



Dysart delayed road resurfacing in Haliburton village until it decides on whether to expand the sewer line. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

should have a full investigation into the sewer."

Council directed staff to adjust the project list to remove roads within the village that could be included in a sewer expansion.

### More funding for roads

Council also agreed to put more dollars into

the road budget to contract prep work for resurfacing projects.

Council agreed to a figure – potentially in the \$50,000-\$100,000 range, based on staff recommendation – for more brushing and ditching, a needed step in some areas to convert roads from gravel to hardtop.

Smith questioned staff's struggles to get planned brushing and ditching done

in-house at areas like Kennisis Lake Road.

"We have all sorts of good intentions to get this work done, but it all boils down to limitations," director of public works Rob Camelon said. "We only have so many people."

Council asked staff to bring back an exact figure they would like to contract some of the workload.

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# Highlander news

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## COUNTY BUDGET NEWS

### Mild winter helps budget

Milder winter weather has given the County some budget reprieve.

CAO Mike Rutter highlighted how only 65 per cent of the 2020 winter maintenance budget was spent as of the end of November. The County will put any leftover funds into a reserve for future winters.

"That reserve has really been empty for a number of years," Rutter said. "Really good news."

### Social services changing

Staff reported some uncertainty about the future of social services, run by the City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) on behalf of the County.

The CKL budget has a 1.3 increase in social housing and a 0.9 per cent decrease in social services. The report said there could be uploads or downloads to come in the sector.

Rutter said further changes are happening locally, such as Fleming College taking on employment services as a pilot project as opposed to city staff.

"There's a lot of changes happening with social services right now," Rutter said, adding CKL will present to County council about it in the future. "We're just waiting for the dust to settle a little bit. There's still a lot of unknowns."



The County is considering a loan to deal with major culvert and bridge repair. Photo via County of Haliburton.

### More debt considered

The County of Haliburton is considering taking on more debt for culvert and bridge repairs.

Staff presented council with options Jan. 11. They reported that four culverts and five bridges needed major replacements and rehabilitations. The report estimated \$1.5 million is required for culverts in 2021 and \$3.1 million for bridges in 2022.

"We've known this was a sleeping giant," Coun. Brent Devolin said. "It isn't unique to the County."

A biennial bridge inspection report presented Dec. 9 said the County needed to put more dollars towards replacing bridges and culverts, with an estimated \$10.3 million needed between 2021-2028.

The options ranged from delaying a loan until 2022, taking one out now for projects this year only, or taking a larger loan to

cover projects this year and in the future. Council did not decide and asked staff to work with the options and provide more details.

Coun. Cec Ryall said he agreed with a loan but is concerned about ensuring the municipality does not overuse them.

"We got to keep things up and running," he said. (County budget news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).

## DYSART BUDGET NEWS

### Art attractions get boost

Dysart is providing more support to the arts, giving extra dollars to the Rails End Gallery and Haliburton Sculpture Forest.

During a Jan. 11 budget meeting, council agreed to provide \$12,500 – including \$5,000 in in-kind maintenance – to the sculpture forest and \$6,250 for hydro expenses to the Rails End Gallery.

The sculpture forest sought the figure as an ongoing contribution, but councillors opted to keep it to one year for now.

"This year is fine, and maybe the end of this council (term), but we shouldn't burden the next council," Coun. Walt McKechnie said.

Coun. Larry Clarke, who serves on the gallery board, said it should only need the amount for this year, given its revenue

losses due to COVID-19. The municipality also provides the gallery with an annual \$50,000 grant.

### Speeding study dropped

Council considered a \$47,000 study on speed limits in the municipality but opted against including it in this year's budget.

The study would have gathered data across the municipality to recommend speed limit changes. Director of public works Rob Camelon noted the frequent requests to adjust speed limits on certain roads.

But councillors questioned the idea. Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts said if anything, the money should be spent on police enforcement.

"People are going to drive however fast

they're going to drive. So, until you do some enforcement, it is not going to change driving habits," she said.

McKechnie said a study was not needed and there is enough local knowledge about roads with problem speeding.

### New economic development reserve

Dysart plans to spend \$10,000 to begin a new economic development reserve.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said good opportunities can come in the middle of the year without any dollars available to support them. She said the reserve is a way they could do so more easily.

"It's important to have a bit of money there to be able to address these one-offs

that come up that are a benefit to the overall community," Clarke said.

### Levy going up

After starting the process at a zero per cent levy rate increase, the draft budget now stands at an approximately 1.2 per cent increase.

Other add-ons contributing to the increase included \$2,500 for Haliburton Lake Beach, \$5,000 to repair the eavestrough at the Haliburton Curling Club, \$5,000 to start a pullover at County Road 10 and approximately \$50,000 for brushing and ditching roads.

Council will review the draft budget again at a future meeting. (Dysart budget news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).

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# Highlander news

## Shoreline bylaw debate heating up

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The debate around the County's shoreline protection bylaw is intensifying as the municipality prepares to put the current draft up for public discussion.

County council completed a review of the bylaw Nov. 23, with the municipality planning a public meeting in Feb. 24 and enforcement starting in April. Cottage, environmental and building associations alike are examining the bylaw, with outcry from some groups about the current draft.

The proposed rules aim to curtail shoreline degradation and thus preserve lake health by limiting development within 30 metres of shorelines. But the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) is asking for changes and said the setback goes too far.

"We feel some of the items required for the site alteration plan are excessive and, in the end, it could negatively affect local businesses," spokesperson Aaron Galbraith said. "We just want to work with them to get to a common ground."

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA) has driven the concern around shoreline health. It has pointed to research about shorelines needing 75 per cent naturalization to maintain water quality and help prevent algae blooms. A CHA assessment of 60 local lakes found only 47-48 per cent of their shorelines were natural.

Galbraith said the HCHBA wants the bylaw delayed until after the pandemic, to allow a proper public meeting instead of an online one.

But Environment Haliburton! vice-president Terry Moore said they want to see it finalized as soon as possible due to the pandemic creating a "building frenzy" on shorelines.

"That is translating into a lot of development pressure that is doing so much damaging stuff," Moore said.

Galbraith responded that many in the



The County's shoreline protection bylaw is attracting outcry ahead of an upcoming public meeting. *File photo.*

landscaping sector such as him build responsibly.

"Unfortunately, in any trade, there are going to be people that try to skirt around the rules. But a lot of us follow the rules and we're actually helping our lake systems by securing our shorelines," he said.

The County is also opening discussion on mandating shoreline renaturalization, which is not in the current draft.

CHA chair Paul MacInnes said his organization is concerned adding that would slow the process too much.

"If the bylaw is passed, we should all work together to convince property owners to voluntarily renaturalize our shorelines," MacInnes said. "With 10 suspected algae blooms reported this year, more and more people realize that we need to act urgently."

Galbraith said the HCHBA would like the requirement and it makes sense by the CHA's own report.

"They want to achieve 75 per cent (naturalized shoreline)," Galbraith said. "There's no way to attain that without making past offenders remediate their properties."

The HCHBA has begun advertising on the issue. They claimed a landowner could need

to spend \$10,000 for project approval with no guarantee of success, which Galbraith said was based on a talk with a local professional surveyor.

The HCHBA also estimated it could cost \$750,000 per year to implement the bylaw. In the first draft of its 2021 budget, the County projects a \$115,000 cost for two staff to enforce the bylaw. Galbraith said the HCHBA feels it will take more.

In a Facebook post, Moore said the HCHBA's points are "extreme exaggerations" adding heat to an already polarized debate.

"With healthy lakes being so essential to a healthy, sustainable future for the members of your association, why is the HCHBA focused exclusively on drumming up opposition to a bylaw aimed at preserving that future?" Moore asked.

Galbraith said the HCHBA wants to find a solution which works for the environment, property owners and local businesses.

"We are not 'exclusively trying to drum up opposition'," Galbraith said. "We are simply trying to ensure that all lakefront property owners in Haliburton County are aware of the proposed bylaw and the possible impacts."

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Danielsen vice chair of wardens' caucus

County of Haliburton Warden Liz Danielsen has been appointed vice chair of The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for the 2021 term.

"It is my honour and distinct pleasure to serve as vice chair of the EOWC for 2021 and I welcome the opportunity to advocate for the 750,000 residents that are supported by the work of this organization," Danielsen said. "Of course, I will work to ensure the needs of rural Ontarians are understood, as a result of my experience serving as an elected official within the County of Haliburton."

Since its inception, the EOWC has worked to support and advocate on behalf of the property taxpayers across rural Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of

45,000 square kilometres from Cobourg to the Quebec border, and includes 13 upper-tier and single-tier municipalities as well as 90 local municipalities.

### Land Trust gets OTF grant

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust announced Jan. 7 that its grant application with the Ontario Trillium Foundation's 2021 Resilient Communities Fund had been successful.

The Land Trust will receive \$48,500 over the next 12 months to be used in the redesign of its website, improving its capabilities to enhance its Discovery Days educational programs online and to showcase their conservation projects and recreational properties.

"The funding will allow the Land Trust

to rebuild, recover from and adapt to the impacts of COVID-19," they said in a news release.

### Winter hike cancelled

The Hike Haliburton Festival, Winter Edition has been cancelled for this year.

It had been scheduled to take place Feb. 6-7.

"We understand that this announcement will be disappointing to many, however with the current provincial lockdown and unknowns regarding future public health guidelines, we feel it is in the best interest for the health and safety of our community to cancel the event," organizers said.

They thanked everyone who had been involved in the event planning and said they look forward "to better news ahead and an exciting 2022 event." (News briefs compiled by Lisa Gervais)



# Editorial opinion

## TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

### OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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## Leslie M. Frost would be pleased

Early 2021 has delivered a dose of very good news for the Haliburton Highlands.

It was revealed Jan. 8 that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) had purchased the Frost Centre.

Infrastructure Ontario, the Crown agency that manages provincially-owned lands and buildings enlisted CBRE Limited Real Estate Brokerage to list the 40.63-acre property in the fall.

The waterfront land, 21 buildings, full kitchen, dining-hall and recreation centre were put on the market for just \$1.1 million so we expected a quick sale.

It was fast and OPSEU ended up shelling out \$3.2 million so we can only suspect there was a bidding war for the prime piece of land located on the shores of St. Nora Lake.

The property did come with certain conditions that required a special sort of owner. For example, they have to respect the existing trail system, heritage designations and easements.

It would appear OPSEU is on board. In their press release about the purchase, they referenced the history of the Frost Centre.

President Smokey Thomas acknowledged its legacy of training forest rangers in the 1920s and other educational and research

purposes up to its closure in 2004.

His second in command, Eddy Almeida, said they have an opportunity but also a duty to protect the property's integrity, respect the environment and be good neighbours.

They did the decent thing by calling Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt Dec. 7. She said she and Thomas spoke of many opportunities for collaboration and partnership between the facility and the community at large.

In addition, Moffatt said the revitalization of the property as an educational facility will provide many employment opportunities across a range of fields.

OPSEU will use the site as a training facility for its members and their families. They represent 170,000 frontline public sector workers.

Thomas said they will train their members and leaders in the 2020s and beyond.

Locals will remember the shock, disappointment and anger that accompanied the closure more than 16 years ago. Knowing today that the centre will again be used for its intended purpose - that of a training facility - has to ease some of that angst.

Further knowing that OPSEU respects the

centre's history and plans to honour it in some way affords a further sign of relief for those who've wanted to preserve this piece of our local history.

There is no doubt that OPSEU will have to do a lot of work to get the facility up and running. When Algonquin Highlands staff and council toured the facility in 2013, Moffatt said she was disheartened by the state it had fallen into.

Being in the centre since its closure, Moffatt also said that each time they wandered the barren halls and stood in the empty classrooms, there was a tangible sadness and she could feel the memories.

In time, OPSEU and its deep pockets will be able to restore the Frost Centre to its former glory. Those halls and classrooms will be filled again. New memories will be made.

One can only imagine that Leslie M. Frost is smiling down upon this newest chapter of his namesake property and that his vision will continue to be carried out.



By Lisa Gervais

## COVID CORNER

### Vaccination victory

"Zhang, we have to release the sequence," Eddie Holmes said.

"Give me a minute to think about it," Zhang Wenhong replied. "Okay, do it."

In a matter of hours from this conversation shortly after Jan. 3, 2020 between Professor Holmes, a world-renowned evolutionary virologist in Sydney Australia, and Professor Wenhong, a now famous infectious disease expert in Shanghai, the viral sequence of SARS-CoV-2 was posted on an open-forum international website virological.org and on Twitter, allowing the world's top immunologists and virologists to start working on a vaccine. It has been said that this will go down in history as one of the most famous tweets ever.

Within hours it was received by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Moderna, who immediately started rolling from that sequence to the vaccine.

The rapid development of the vaccines based on that viral genetic sequence is a first of its kind in research. It took two years from first describing AIDS to finding the causative virus (HIV), and in 2003 it took a few weeks to find SARS-CoV-1. In January 2020, it took 40 hours to get the viral sequence for SARS-CoV-2 after the arrival of the patient tissue samples to Dr. Zhang's Shanghai lab.

**What this means for you and me.** We are about to benefit from transformational science breakthroughs as we receive a vaccination that safely protects us from COVID-19 with 95 per cent success.

**How mRNA vaccines work.** Unlike many vaccines, messenger RNA vaccines do not put a weakened or inactivated virus or germ into our bodies. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a piece of a protein (the spike protein) that is on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine delivers instructions to our immune cells to make this protein piece. Once made, our immune system sees it and recognizes that this protein does not belong there (is foreign material to our bodies) and starts building an immune response, making antibodies to fight this protein.

Later, those antibodies will protect us from getting infected if we are exposed to the real virus. It is very safe: The mRNA vaccine does not use live virus, it never enters the nucleus of our cells where our DNA (genetic material) is kept, and it is broken down, destroyed and then disposed of by our immune cells after it has delivered the instructions, within hours.

Between Pfizer and Moderna, over 70,000 people were studied for safety and effectiveness of the mRNA vaccines. This is far, far more than for most vaccine research trials, which typically have less than 10,000 subjects. And the safety data is overwhelmingly reassuring. Short term local irritation at the injection site on the arm was reported, and rarely fatigue or fever.

**Who cannot get a mRNA vaccine?**

- Individuals with a history of severe allergic reaction after previous

administration of the vaccine.

- Individuals with proven allergy or hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine or its container, including polyethylene glycol.
- Individuals who have received any other vaccine in the past 14 days.
- Individuals younger than 16 (Pfizer vaccine) and younger than 18 (Moderna vaccine).
- Individuals with active symptoms of COVID-19.

**Vaccine hesitancy and biases.** People look for information to confirm their beliefs. They "trust" things that fit with their preconceived notion of reality and close themselves off to new information that conflicts with their "truth."

Last week I wrote about the COVID-19 Infodemic and its subculture of dangerous misinformation.

Please be reassured: there is no microchip in the coronavirus vaccines! But there is a tracking device in your cell phone. This last point was made by a young physician I had the pleasure of working with this week who has already had his first SARS-CoV-2 shot. Very exciting. For more information go to [covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario) (Next week: all you need to know about getting the vaccine)



By Dr. Nell Thomas

For breaking news check the [TheHighlander.ca](https://thehighlander.ca)



# Editorial opinion

## ■ PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Kevin K. Pepper sent in this photo of a New Year's Day sunrise on Salerno Lake in the Highlands.

## ■ LETTERS

### Next time do the right thing

*Dear editor,*

Well, New Year's Eve Day 2020, the last day of the crappiest year of my life, ended on a terrible note.

I lost my wallet. Right outside the door of Foodland about 9:15 in the morning. I realized it maybe five minutes later and went rushing back. Surely someone found it and turned it in. Not a chance I would be so lucky. Went and asked inside, phoned radio station to have it announced, cause our little town is great that way, but no honest person turned it in.

Well, this is my message to the person who found it and decided to keep it. You must have needed the cash more than me. You must have needed the lottery tickets more than me. I hope you win. I hope that times get better for you if you do win.

It would have been so much easier for me

if you had turned in the wallet. You could have the cash and the tickets and the gift cards but the rest was invaluable to you, but priceless for me. You have cost me so much money getting stuff replaced, money which I don't have. You have no idea how violated I feel and how disappointed I am in you for not turning it in. You could have taken what you wanted and given the rest back. Why did you not do the right thing? Ever heard of Karma, I truly believe in it. I hope you grow a conscience and decide next time to do the right thing.

*M. Lawrence  
Haliburton*

### Hypocritical, disgusting and contemptible

*Dear editor,*

I am sharing this letter to Premier Doug Ford and MPP Rod Phillips, copied to MPP

Laurie Scott.

There are a few choice adjectives to apply to the revelation that our ex-minister of finance felt it was his privilege to take a secretive Caribbean vacation during this pandemic, with the full knowledge of the premier of Ontario. 'Hypocritical' is the most printable one I can come up with.

Your vacation was "pre-planned." Geez, what a great excuse! Not like us little people – we don't plan to travel at Christmas to see our families or have a vacation somewhere warm. My wife and I could not see our grandchildren and we lost a hefty deposit on a Mexican trip booked before COVID but we understood why it had to be so. But not you, Mr. Phillips! Why you and your wife had "a pre-planned vacation," I'm going to add 'contemptible' to my list.

The fake Twitter posts and staged photo-ops to cover your tracks - there's a nice touch. The fact you were doing Zoom meetings, means sweet diddley squat. You travelled to a luxurious vacation destination

and hoped to stay under the radar. If Premier Ford had ordered you home as soon as he knew – or better – ordered you not to go, I would give him full credit. Premier Ford, you did neither – until your hand was forced. Maybe I'll add 'disgusting' to my adjectival epithets.

You two didn't just destroy your own credibility. While many of us try to convince the doubters and the cranks that the challenge of this virus is real, that we need to act responsibly, your words and actions undercut us too. The scofflaws can say "Look! Even Premier Ford and Minister Phillips don't believe in the Coronavirus! It's all a hoax! Let's go have some barbecue at Adamson's to celebrate!"

Please, do not insult us any further with spurious apologies. If you hadn't been caught at your gambit, we, the citizens who actually attempt to follow provincial guidelines, would have been none the wiser.

And all of the front-line workers who have soldiered valiantly, stoically through this

Continued on page 10



# Editorial opinion

## Keep your seat belts fastened

It was Dec. 26 and I was enjoying the afterglow that follows Christmas. Most of it had been spent online, Zooming with family and friends and, while it wasn't as socially rich as previous Christmases, it was as good as it gets in these troubling times. I tried to push negative thoughts out of my mind ...

After all, while the province had tightened its COVID restrictions, at least the vaccines were here and being rolled out. Even over the holiday break, thousands of arms were being jabbed and people were acquiring protection from the pandemic that was stalking our land.

The post-Christmas glow was enhanced by the knowledge that just about everyone was following the rules. Mask wearing seemed to be increasing, people were taking care when passing others in the stores, hand sanitization stations appeared to be everywhere and everyone was staying close to home. No unnecessary trips, no escapes to warmer climes for a brief respite from

winter. The regular Joes were toeing the line and so, no doubt were our elected and appointed leaders.

One could almost feel the weight being lifted off one's shoulders as, with each passing day, we were one step closer to a new president in Washington. I could envision the bags being packed at the White House as the president and his staff made arrangements to quietly slip away so the new administration could move in with no impediments or issues blocking the way.

Needless to say, the reverie did not last much past Boxing Day. That period between Christmas and New Years is usually an easy-going time to take the foot off the gas and just coast through a relaxing week. But then it became known that perhaps the vaccines weren't getting out quite as briskly as I had imagined. The logistics of distributing the precious cargo was a tangled mess as was organizing the people to stick it in our arms. When I heard

that dentists and veterinarians had offered their services ... they are experienced at sticking needles into living beings ... I realized things might not be going as smoothly as we had hoped.

Then the reports of politicians and senior civil servants flying off unannounced to destinations far from their homes started to emerge. At first, the thought crossed my mind, these were just a few errant individuals, but the numbers grew, encompassing people we entrust with leading and doing so by setting an example. When the dust settled, and it isn't over yet apparently, it was a wonder that any governing happened in that period of time with so many of them out of the country.

As for the circus in D.C., the talking heads on the news networks barely had a chance to wolf down their second piece of pumpkin pie before being whisked back to their marks in front of the cameras to enumerate the growing pandemonium surrounding

the Trump administration's exit from the White House. I hesitate to say it all culminated with the mob attack on the Capitol, a dark stain on the country so many thought was a shining beacon of hope, because, even as these words are penned, I fear there is more to come.

So much for the post Christmas glow, which was likely tryptophan induced anyway. I should never have taken off the seat belt and dreamed of a quieter transition into the New Year. But I have to think that 2021, despite its rocky start, has to be better than the last 12 months. Let's hope so.



By Jack Brezina

## LETTERS

Continued on page 10

nightmare, why they haven't even got their promised pay raise. Health care workers are reportedly three-and-a-half times more likely to be infected and they keep showing up for work. If they're lucky, they might have a 'pre-planned' staycation. You gentlemen should get down on your knees in public and beg their forgiveness.

**Douglas Rodger**  
Highlands East

### Blue-green algae

Dear editor,

I keep reading letters to the editor and write-ups on lake health and the Shoreline By-Law about blue-green algae. It's making it look like this algae is new to the Highlands.

Well, it's not. My father first pointed it out to me in the early 1950s as it grew in our pond and along Farquhar Creek near Wilberforce. Wherever the water is stagnant, come mid-August it shows up along the shoreline in places.

Since then, I've seen it in many waterways throughout the county and elsewhere.

People who have never lived on water before, or had it pointed out to them, don't know.

So, what's the big deal? It's a natural occurrence that no matter what people do it will show up somewhere.

**Don Outram**  
Tory Hill

### Scott sidesteps environmental questions

Dear editor,

How fitting that MPP Laurie Scott completely ignored your question about the environment (in reference to Schedule 6) during your interview in the Jan. 7 issue.

How typical of the regressive conservatives to pretend we live in a plastic bubble where the environment is merely a thing to be used, manipulated, monetized and capitalized upon, hence, is not a real entity. If you pretend it isn't there, it doesn't exist.

Like the costly, four-page, colour newsletter full of photos from Scott, sent to taxpayers last month through the postal

mail, a wasteful expense showing Laurie on a fun outing to Kawartha Dairy with Doug Ford, decimator in chief, on the front page, and again on the back page.

In that 'newsletter' there was not one word about the environment, wetlands, nature, or the impact of the Ontario legislation the regressives passed Dec. 8 that weakens conservation authorities, destroys wetlands and opens them up for developers. They do not seem to realize the ecological function or the health benefits of nature. Not all enterprise enhances our 'quality of life'. In fact, the complicity of Scott through her smiling silence is just one of the reasons why Ontario's environmental protections are dissolving as we speak.

Our elected officials were entrusted to be the caretakers of the environment for the people of Ontario, and to ensure an equitable quality of life for all residents. Government is not the playpen of the corporate sector. The protection of our wildlands, wetlands and waterways need to be enshrined in the constitution, to protect them from self-interested parties whether elected or otherwise. Destroying these protections and stealing public lands are betrayals of trust. People care about the environment; we deserve to know what

is happening to it, especially when our government is under corporate leadership.

As Scott is not mentioning it, to give a voice to nature I am including what the Environmental Defence organization says on the subject. "On Dec. 8, the provincial government passed a law making big changes to the way Conservation Authorities operate, handing major environmental planning decisions over to the government - and their developer friends. But these huge and damaging changes were just the latest in a long string of attacks on Ontario's environment, such as reduced protection for endangered species, planning an unnecessary highway through farmland and a portion of the Greenbelt, weakening climate action plans and approving developments on protected wetlands. For eight members of the Greenbelt Council, including Chair David Crombie, the latest attack was the last straw, and they resigned from the council en masse earlier this month. I know a lot of people feel the same way. So, what's next for Ontario's environment?"

**S. McCormick**  
City of Kawartha Lakes

# HAVE AN OPINION?

Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)  
(300 words max)





# Highlander news

## Minden council to continue landfilling at Scotch Line

By Lisa Gervais

Faced with a report that could see the township spending thousands of dollars to deal with two continuing leachate seeps at the Scotch Line landfill, Coun. Jean Neville raised the prospect of starting to ship household waste offsite rather than pouring more money into the beleaguered town dump.

In a report to the Dec. 17 meeting, manager of waste facilities, Tara Stephen updated council on the leachate outbreaks.

She said the “good news” is the source of the outbreak was actually surface water flowing through the landfill, which means the township can focus on much simpler, more cost-effective solutions. She said in order to stop the rain and snow melt flowing through garbage, the water needs to be “encouraged” to roll off the site. She said the site’s been graded which is helping. However, the most important thing is to cap it, where landfilling is done, with something such as clay or an engineered alternative. She said interim cover is needed where landfilling is not complete.

With continued landfilling in the southeast, Stephen said it is impacted by

external surface water so it will continue to appear even after capping. She said staff, the ministry and consultants’ GHD agree it would be best to stop landfilling the area and leave a buffer around the existing surface water course. That would mean a loss of 2.5 years capacity at the landfill. However, there would still be 10-15 years of good capacity at the site, Stephen said.

As for continued landfilling in the west, she said it needs final cover to reduce the impacts of the western leachate seep.

If cover doesn’t work, she said the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) wants contingencies.

She said these include: installing a French drain and leachate collection sump (\$50,000 to \$100,000 and operating costs of \$30,000-a-year; installing a reactive barrier to treat groundwater before discharge (\$100,000 to \$200,000 and operating costs of \$1,000-a-year) or installing constructed wetlands (\$20,000 to \$50,000-an-acre and operating costs of \$20,000-a-year).

At this point, Neville said, “it seems like we’re doing Band-aids and major reconstruction and if you think of somebody’s body, we’re amputating this and trying to bandage up that and I just see



The Scotch Line landfill. File photo.

in the long run that we should be maybe starting a transfer consideration now.”

Stephen said she wouldn’t recommend transferring household waste as it’s “enormously” expensive.

She added a lot of the problems at Scotch Line are historical, pre-dating current staff and council.

She added they now have the tools and resources and a good working relationship with the ministry.

Director of public works, Travis Wilson, noted in a written report that staff had successfully tackled two other major issues at the landfill: accumulated stockpiles of

material and excessively steep slopes.

He also wrote, “an alternative option for managing the leachate seeps is to finish re-grading all slopes, apply final cover to the entire landfill site and ship all waste off site going forward.

“Closing the landfill site would avoid the capital costs for closure in Phase 2 (\$340,000) but would incur an approximate annual expenditure of \$500,000 to ship household waste offsite. Staff do not recommend site closure,” he said.

Council adopted the plan to be sent to the MOECC.

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NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 21.  
 BOOKING DEADLINE JANUARY 19

Everything you need to know about

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- **& BEING ACTIVE**

## COVID-19: Free public notices for local businesses

With many businesses either temporarily closed or making changes to their hours and operations during the COVID-19 lockdown, The Highlander can help get the word out to your customers and the rest of the community.

If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to [admin@thehighlander.ca](mailto:admin@thehighlander.ca). They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words.

If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email [sales@thehighlander.ca](mailto:sales@thehighlander.ca).

For news and COVID-19 updates check the **TheHighlander.ca**

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# Highlander business

## Horror decor: Zombie gnomes descend on Haliburton

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton's newest business is bringing a unique product to the County: hordes of zombie gnomes.

Casper and Sadie Revenant are the owners of RevenantFX Canada and recently moved to Highlands East. The pair, originally from Newmarket, make handcrafted gnomes and other creatures with a horror theme, which they sell online.

Casper Revenant said they have made the creatures since 2012. He added the business began unintentionally.

"We made a few of the gnomes for family and friends. Maybe we could sell a few of them. We posted the pictures online; they went viral and we've just been doing it ever since."

The crafts range in price from \$30-100. Besides gnomes, their wares also include accessories such as fairy doors and other creatures including squirrels, rabbits and a hybrid crocodile-penguin called a "crocopenguidill." Their creations can also take topical themes; one recent gnome creation holds a sign asking passersby to return home.

"Anything with horror and decor involved, we kind of have our fingers in now," he said.

The concept came from their mutual interest in the genre. On Facebook, they name media that inspired them such as the Walking Dead, Dawn of the Dead and 28 Days Later.

"We're both big fans of horror, horror movies and zombie movies especially," he said. "So, the idea came – what can we do with zombies and stuff? Gnomes just came about naturally."

The pair is still getting their workshop up



RevenantFX, an online-based company that sells zombie gnomes, has moved to Highlands East. *Photo submitted.*

and running. They said they came to the County out of love for cottage country.

"There are space and forests, and where better can you make gnomes?" Revenant said.

The business owner said Halloween is not even their busiest season, adding they have lots of orders for gifts around Christmas. He further said the pandemic has had a positive impact on their store.

"It's strangely enough been kind of good for us," he said. "People are buying a lot from artists online from Etsy."

The peculiar nature of the crafts makes them appealing, he said. He added they can always catch attention, whether positive or negative.

The best part of the job is the people they get to meet, the artist said.

"The people that buy the gnomes from

us - kind of due to (the gnomes') nature - you have to have a good sense of humour. So, we get to meet a lot of fun people," Revenant said. "We're really excited to be up here and really excited to be part of this community."

The store is available via RevenantFX.com or [etsy.com/ca/RevenantFX](https://etsy.com/ca/RevenantFX).

## Art student takes chance to give autoshop vintage facelift

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Despite not having any experience working on cars, integrated design student Sarah Verhoeve jumped on the opportunity to start at Louie's Car Care.

The Haliburton School of Art + Design student joined the auto detailing shop in December and plans to renovate the business situated at the former home of Stan's Garage on County Road 118.

She said she hopes to use her design skills to bring a fresh look to the shop, harkening back to a 1950s vibe with a waiting room more open to "gab."

"It would be cool if we could turn this into a new place to hang out when you get your car detailed," Verhoeve said. "I want to start bringing in vintage car posters and neon signs."

The garage has changed since it moved into the new spot two years ago, adding more services, according to owner Louis Lauricella. He said Verhoeve has picked up the trade fast.

"I've been teaching her all the stuff I know. She does amazing work," he said.

Verhoeve said she has done a lot of different jobs in her career – from horse farming to greenhouse supervising – and is a hairstylist by trade. But in the auto shop, she saw a chance to apply the skills she is learning in school – and gain some new ones.

"I'm that type of person that wants to try every job I can," she said. "I saw an opportunity to learn new skills. It might be something I could do full time."

The pandemic is impacting the business, but Lauricella said it is positive. Although they are working within COVID restrictions, the business is staying busy, versus last year when they shut down for the winter due to a lack of customers.

"It's been bringing us more business than ever because people want their cars all clean. After we clean their cars, we sanitize," Lauricella said.

The pair said they hope to complete their renovations and give the shop a new look by the end of the year.

"We want it to be like Louie's shop instead of Stan's Garage," Verhoeve said. "A new landmark and an easier flowing business."



Student Sarah Verhoeve joined Louie's Car Care with a goal to give the auto shop a new look. *Photo by Joseph Quigley*



# Highlander arts

## Readers can expect sex, drugs and rock and roll

By Lisa Gervais

With a book cover depicting psychedelic colours, a guitar-wielding, hat-wearing, skeleton juggling dice and playing cards, all while smoking a stogie, you know you are in for an interesting read with Kennisis Lake resident John Leo Organ's recently-published book.

Organ, who's lived on the lake for five years, is a singer and songwriter who's worked with many producers and artists. He's shared countless hours between sessions gabbing and trading stories in the studio and at people's homes.

"I have been told, and urged by friends and professionals for decades, to write some of my exciting tales in a heady book and I finally found the time," Organ told *The Highlander*.

He said he's written and recorded about 260 songs at Grant Avenue Studio in Hamilton (home of artists such as Johnny Cash, Emmy-Lou Harris, Gordon Lightfoot, U2, Radio Head) "and too many contemporary artists to list," he said.

He said the book, entitled *Cold Cold Heart*, is autobiographical, "with stories that only could have happened in the sixties, seventies, eighties. It's your basic sex, drugs, rock and roll that has been written in a way that it is an easy read for almost all ages; especially anybody who went through those wild decades ... a lot of fun and humour, yet it is indeed a heart soul story."

The last 100 pages are lyrics and the stories behind each song. He said the book would be great for those trying to learn how to write songs and who are looking for something different.

He credits the lake in part with finally getting all of those stories down on paper.

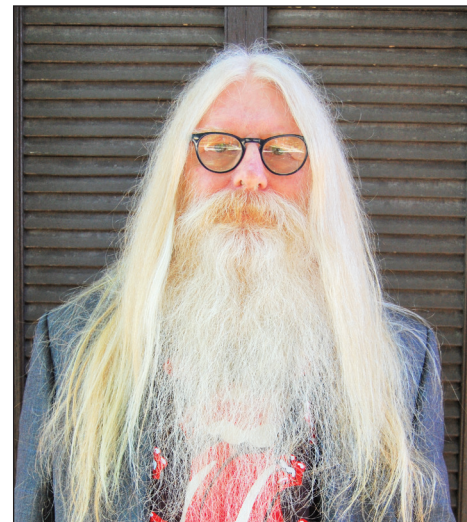
"I was canoeing across the lake one morning and I wrote a couple of songs and then sang them to some receptive ears on the other shore. I returned home and started writing this and I did not stop until I finished on Jan. 1 of last year."

Organ published the book himself with help from Friesen Press. He also designed the covers, proof-read it and did rewrites.

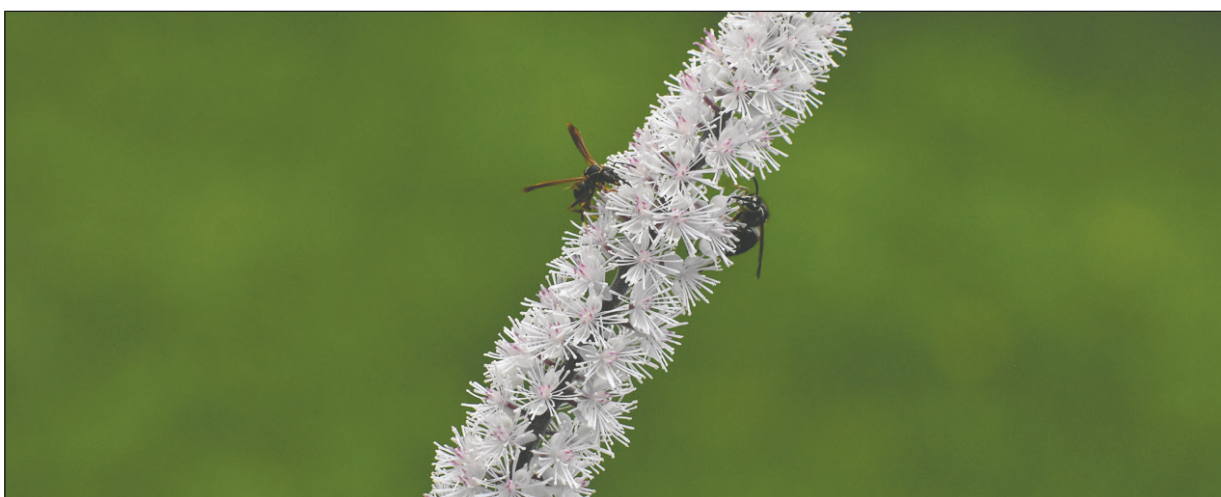
"It took me three months to write it and I then waited five months for friends, former wives and girlfriends to return my legal name release forms," he added.

Organ thinks the book will appeal to people from 14 to 114 years old.

*Cold Cold Heart* is available at Masters Bookstore on Highland Street in Haliburton. The Haliburton Library also has copies.



John Leo Organ has written a book entitled *Cold Cold Heart*. Photo submitted.



## Straight out of the camera

The Haliburton Highlands Camera Club has released winners from its straight out of camera contest. Members could take pictures of any subject but no post processing was allowed. The objective was to take the best shot using the optimal camera settings. Winners were: first advanced 'watchful waiting' by Amin Shivji; first intermediate 'wasp on coneflower' by Gordon Sheehan and first novice 'spring snow' by Lorry Brandon. The club continues to be active online and holds monthly meetings by Zoom. Visit [highlandscameraclub.ca](http://highlandscameraclub.ca) to view competition images and follow them on Facebook. (Lisa Gervais)



# Highlander investigates

## HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

# Thieves have been busy across the Highlands

Continued from page 1

Downtown Haliburton businesses have seen their fair share of break-ins over the past few years. But thieves have been busy across the Highlands, police say.

While the Dec. 9 incident was clearly related to drugs, OPP statistics indicate that in nearly every major drug bust they made in Haliburton County in 2020, they also seized stolen items from businesses or residences.

On Nov. 1, 2019, they had their first big breakthrough after months of investigations, busting a major theft and drug ring.

"We were able to have our teams go out and execute a number of warrants and a number of arrests, seized drugs, recovered skid steers, trailers, boats, snowmobiles etcetera," Spong said.

Looking at the seized property summary for Haliburton County for 2020, police recovered 251 items, valued at \$76,000 as of Nov. 29, 2020. In 2019, by contrast, they seized 118 items worth \$39,000.

## Different perceptions about problem

Luke Schell is president of the Haliburton Business Improvement Association (BIA).

He said with all of the break-ins over the past three years, it appears to him that only one - at the pharmacy before Christmas - was definitely drug-related. "He went in with a gun and demanded drugs ... that's a pretty easy one," Schell said.

As for the others, "how do we know that they're not using it (stolen items or cash) to buy food for their family? I don't think we can just jump to the conclusion that it has to do with drugs."

He added while an armed robbery in the downtown is naturally "concerning ... I don't think that it is something that is going to happen a whole bunch of times in Haliburton."

A long-time resident, he doesn't think the drug problem has gotten any worse over the years, with the possible exception of opioid use.

"And how the opioid crisis got started is debatable but appears to have been started by drug companies and doctors by mistake. And now they're trying to shut that down but once that wheel gets rolling, it's hard to stop. It's pretty addictive stuff."

Schell said the fact he doesn't think the problem has gotten any worse does not mean that there isn't a drug problem in Haliburton County.

However, "I don't think the drug problem we have in Haliburton County is any worse than many, many other towns such as ours. I'm not going to vilify Haliburton County as being the drug capital of Ontario. I quite honestly feel that most retail business people around here feel like we're in one of the safest communities going. That's how I feel about it. I'm not worried about the lady who just came in the store here pulling a gun on me."

Minden Hills councillor, Jennifer Hughey, who witnessed a drug bust on the street she lives on in November 2020, said she can see a link between residential property crime and drugs.

She said last summer, at the end of the driveway of a suspected drug house, there was a yard sale and "when you see seven bicycles lined up, you realize that the people who live in that house, there's no need for all of those bicycles. Those bicycles have probably been stolen and were used to buy drugs, or the money made from selling them are probably going to be used to buy drugs."

Alex Smith emailed *The Highlander* in January of 2020 saying his Dysart et al cottage has been broken into five times over the past several years. He said he filed police reports and had spoken to Roberts. He's pretty sure it has to do with drugs. "The community needs to come together to solve the problem," he said.



Haliburton Highlands OPP Constable Christopher Darling keeps an eye out for crime. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

## Plan in the works

Warden Liz Danielsen told *The Highlander* that drug problems were not part of the purview of Haliburton County Council and that she had no internal knowledge about the depth of a problem that might exist within the county.

"Do we have a drug problem in Haliburton? I'd say there might be some issues but I don't know the extent of that for sure," she said. "And saying that there is a problem is rather subjective. Some might think there's a huge problem while others might not, or that the police and agencies involved have things in hand. I'm sure they are all working very hard to keep problems at a minimum as best they can."

Danielsen said policing is the mandate of the lower tier municipalities, and that the four mayors form the membership of the

CPAC group.

Having said that, she noted that the County has assumed responsibility, on behalf of its partner municipalities, to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, as directed by the province. She said that it isn't likely that the County would play a role in any police board yet to be established adding however that, "once developed, the plan will provide a better opportunity for police to work with all of the agencies involved. When the [plan] is completed issues like drug problems in a rural community like ours will be better dealt with by a roundtable of the appropriate people."

**Editor's note: Today, *The Highlander Investigates* series continues with a focus on drugs and related property crime. We kicked off the series Jan. 7 with 'OPP put dent in drug trade.' In our Jan. 21 edition, we will report on the court system.**

## Crime prevention tips from the OPP

- Call 9-1-1 if you witness a crime in progress or a possible crime in progress (e.g., break and enter) or a dangerous situation.
- Anonymously contact Crime Stoppers "See Something? Hear Something? Know Something? Contact Crime Stoppers" at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or by texting "Tip 201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).
- Increase street visibility around your house so that neighbours and others can see if someone is in your yard or trying your door locks.
- If your home is on a corner lot, your risk of burglary increases, so be sure to take additional security precautions.
- Thieves prefer residents not to be home, so leave lights on, get your mail collected, and take other steps to make it look like someone is home.
- Thieves like easy pickings, so target harden your home with outside lighting, good locks, alarms, and other home protection devices.
- Reach out, volunteer, and participate in your community.
- Get to know your neighbours. When you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to call police - promptness promotes prevention.
- Anticipate - observe - report - participate - prevent.



## Downtown Haliburton business break-ins

- May 30, 2018 - The Source - Halco Electronics was the target of a break and enter. Culprits made off with cellphones and other high-value items worth \$10,000.
- July 2-3, 2018 - The 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Shop was broken into. Thieves took some jewelry and caused extensive damage.
- Oct. 22, 2019 - Parkside Laundry in Haliburton was broken into. Cash stolen and \$15,000 in damages.
- Dec. 26, 2019 - Kozy Korner targeted with front door glass smashed and tip jar stolen. Thousands of dollars in damage.
- Dec. 29, 2019 - Parkside Laundry broken into again. Someone tried to steal from the change machine.
- Dec. 9, 2020 - Armed robbery for narcotics at Haliburton Highland Pharmacy.

**Next week: The role of courts**



# 2020 year in review

## JULY

### Infractions over Highland Wood

Families of residents of Highland Wood in Haliburton are criticizing management of the long-term care home after an inspection found they failed to comply with maintenance regulations for the facility's roof. The Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care completed an inspection Feb. 27, finding five regulatory infractions.

### Man shot by police

Investigators were examining the case of a 73-year-old man who died after an altercation with police in Haliburton County July 15. The Ontario Special Investigations Unit (SIU) announced it had assigned six investigators to the case. They reported the matter began when police attended a call at the Minden Valu-mart where the man assaulted an individual. The man left in a vehicle and police later tracked him to a residence on Indian Point Road in Dysart et al. "Outside the residence, there was an interaction with the man and two officers discharged their firearms," the SIU said in a press release. "The man was struck. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced deceased."

### New ER doctor

A new full-time emergency department physician began working for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), while another was in the works for the fall, HHHS CEO and president Carolyn Plummer told the board during its annual general meeting July 16. On a day when the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation should have been staging its annual Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic, the board held its first-ever AGM via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Missing man found dead

The search for a missing man ended after Haliburton Highlands OPP found Robert Smith dead at Minden Lake July 26. OPP said in a press release the 55-year-old Scarborough native's body was found at the north end of the lake by a resident near their dock. Smith was last seen riding a motorcycle that was found in an overflow parking lot off Horseshoe Lake Road.



A tornado ripped through Kinmount in August. *File photo.*

## AUGUST

### Tornado in Kinmount

Environment Canada confirmed on Aug. 3 that an EF-2 tornado with a maximum wind speed of 190 km/h hit Kinmount. The storm left a swathe of devastation as it tore up trees, snapped Hydro poles, and damaged rooves and sheds. It closed a section of Highway 121 for several hours.

### Cold case continues

Hands coated in muck, Mike Mildon kept on digging into a six-foot hole, seven hours into a search for his long-missing relative Harold Heaven. The lead in Mildon's search for answers on the Minden man who disappeared 86-years-ago ended in disappointment Aug. 12. He and fellow documentary filmmaker Jackson Rowe did

not uncover the body they expected to find in a spot on family property.

### Back to School

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board was preparing for the school year with 85 per cent of its students opting for in-person learning. Director of education, Wesley Hahn, spoke to the board of trustees Aug. 18 about back-to-school plans. After the board received a 92 per cent response rate for re-registration, Hahn reported that 85 per cent across the district were choosing in-person learning.

### Pot shop for Haliburton

Downtown Haliburton will soon have a recreational cannabis store as Capturing Eden received retail authorization Aug. 24. The medical cannabis clinic has been working to sell retail cannabis since it

opened in May 2019, losing in the initial lottery process. But after going through a months-long authorization, the store hoped to be ready to open to sell recreational cannabis by the Labour Day weekend.

## SEPTEMBER

### AH surveys about STRs

Algonquin Highlands council agreed to go forward with a survey to figure out how it will address short-term rentals. Council held a special meeting Aug. 31 to discuss options. They directed staff to work on a public engagement process and bring back questions that could be posed to the community about how the municipality should proceed.



There was an incident at the Minden Valu-mart that led to a shooting in the County. *File.*



Rainbow flags were stolen from a local business. *File photo.*



# 2020 year in review

## New development

Dysart et al council got its first look at the site plan for a massive new retail development in Haliburton but were getting pushback on the municipal securities requirements. The municipal committee of the whole reviewed a proposed development at 10 Hops Dr., along County Road 21, featuring a 10,000-square-foot retail store, a restaurant with a drive-thru and a gas bar. The tenants of the buildings are undetermined.

## Pride flags stolen

Police are investigating, and the community outraged, after a Haliburton business owner had his Pride flags stolen. Prettypaws Pet Boutique and Spa owner, Christopher O'Mara, offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the charging of individuals seen on camera outside the business Sept. 6. O'Mara posted videos Sept. 7 showing two people taking Pride flags but leaving Canadian flags.

## Climate change plan approved

Council approved a new Corporate Climate Change Mitigation Plan. County climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay is visiting all lower-tier townships to get approval for new plans for all of them, as well as endorsements for the central County plan.

wanting space outside of cities. It's a trend that has seen realtors reporting record summers with indications the fall will be just as brisk.

## Speeding concerns

Residents and visitors' need for speed in Dysart et al was a topic of discussions at the Oct. 13 committee of the whole meeting. There was a request by taxpayers for warning signage on Loon Lake Road, and to lower the speed limit on Wigamog Road.

## Plans for Head Lake Park

Dysart et al unveiled a vision for Head Lake Park Oct. 20 with a proposed master plan that would add a variety of new features. Peterborough-based architectural firm Basterfield and Associates was hired to oversee the plan's creation and revealed its draft to a group of municipal officials and stakeholders. The plan envisions a massive transformation of the park and proposes additions such as a splash pad, off-leash dog park, a new northern bridge and pathway improvements.

## Student residence

Dysart et al council is supporting in principle a new student residence building at Glebe Park for the Haliburton School of Art and Design. A delegation from Fleming College presented to council Oct. 27 about progress on the development. It's their first public presentation after months of closed-session discussions, according to Mayor Andrea Roberts.

## NOVEMBER

### Premier comes to Minden

Premier Doug Ford announced \$680 million for broadband and cellular connectivity across the province when he visited Minden Nov. 4. But it is not clear how many of those dollars will come locally. Ford, joined by other officials including MPP Laurie Scott and Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, announced the new funding at the Minden library. He said it was part of the 2020 budget introduced Nov. 5 and will go towards "shovel-ready projects" to connect underserved communities.

### YWCA gets donation

Peterborough-based philanthropists, David and Patricia Morton of the Morton Foundation, have made a \$50,000 donation to the YWCA Haliburton County. The YWCA made the announcement Nov. 5.

### Snowbirds face winter travel dilemma

Local snowbirds Greg Freeman and Jeff Papiez are preparing to travel to their Florida abode to escape winter's chill. In a normal year, they said they probably would have left already. But the pandemic has delayed their usual schedule and left them with challenging choices on how safe it is to travel. The pair decided to make the trip and fly – citing the safety precautions of their gated community. But other snowbirds are choosing to roost in Haliburton for the winter.



Premier Doug Ford made a connectivity announcement in Minden. *File photo.*

### Stray bullet shatters glass doors

The Molenaar family came home recently to an unpleasant surprise - something had smashed their glass patio doors. After canvassing their neighbours, the source was discovered: two loud gunshots heard earlier in the day. Police investigated but ultimately were unable to locate the culprit. Dan Molenaar said he couldn't fathom the careless act in a fairly populated neighbourhood.

## DECEMBER

### Service delivery review

Councillors from local townships met to digest a massive services delivery review with 12 recommendations for more collaboration that could save upwards of \$1.18 million annually. Toronto-based consultant, StrategyCorp., presented

12 initiatives for more inter-municipal partnerships. Their report follows months of work and more than 100 interviews/workshops with councillors and staff.

### Tourism gets funding

The province announced Dec. 8 it is giving the tourism organization representing Haliburton Highlands to the Ottawa Valley region \$350,000 in new funding to combat the effects of COVID-19. Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Lisa MacLeod, made the announcement for RTO 11. MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Laurie Scott attended the online event.

### Danielsen back as warden

The luck of the draw delivered the warden's chair to Algonquin Highlands deputy-mayor Liz Danielsen Dec. 15 following a four-four tie vote between her and Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. To break the tie, the mayor of the township with the highest weighted assessment, Dysart's Andrea Roberts, had to pick the winning name. "This is not fun," Roberts said, before drawing Danielsen's name from an envelope containing both warden candidates' names on equal sized pieces of paper.

### Haliburton County back in lockdown

Local businesses were bracing for challenging times ahead as the province announced Dec. 21 it was plunging Haliburton County and the rest of Ontario into another lockdown. Premier Doug Ford said the restrictions would begin Dec. 26. The move meant the end of indoor organized gatherings beyond households, no dine-in at restaurants and most retail limited to curbside pickup or delivery. The municipality is grouped into southern Ontario, where the lockdown was expected to last for at least 28 days. (*Year in review compiled by editor Lisa Gervais.*)



A new Minden housing project was announced. *File photo.*

## OCTOBER

### Minden gets housing

Minden is getting 30 new affordable housing rental units thanks to a public-private partnership between a long-time cottager and the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLH). Corporation CEO, Hope Lee, made a presentation to Minden Hills council's Sept. 24 meeting. The private landowner is Bill Switzer. Tim Welch, of Welch and Associates, joined Lee. They are the development consultant assisting with the project.

### Real estate booms

As a second wave of COVID-19 hits urban Ontario, Haliburton County's real estate industry continues to boom with buyers



A drive-thru Santa Claus parade in Haliburton. *File photo.*



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# Highlander community

## Bingo! Canoe game a winner for local charities

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CanoeFM is donating \$50,988 to five local charities after record-breaking fundraising numbers from its radio bingo program in the past six months.

Station manager, Roxanne Casey, said they raised more than \$100,000 in that time, the highest total since it began. Half will go to CanoeFM, while the other half will be split amongst donation recipients, with \$10,000 each going to Fuel for Warmth, the Central East Heat Bank and Minden Community Food Centre, and \$10,494 each to the Abbey Retreat Centre and the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library.

Every Tuesday at 6 p.m., CanoeFM reads out bingo numbers, with cash prizes on the line. Casey said the pandemic has contributed to the event's greater popularity, with the station selling 736 sheets this past week, more than double this time last year.

"Radio bingo became almost like a household word," Casey said. "It's just become like a fun thing to do and you don't need to go anywhere to do it."

The fundraising runs in six-month intervals, based on the lottery licence. The January-June 2020 period raised approximately \$63,550, with half that going to Minden Community Food Centre.

But Casey said with dollars rising, it made sense to start sharing the wealth.

"COVID hits people really hard, so we felt it was really important to make sure we were supporting those organizations," Casey said.



Left: Volunteer receptionist Nicki Hagarty holds a radio bingo sheet at the CanoeFM office Jan. 8. The contest raised more than \$100,000 in the past six months. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.* Right: CanoeFM's radio bingo has attracted an array of new players, with ticket sales doubling compared to this time last year. *Photo by Roxanne Casey.*



Fuel for Warmth executive director, Joanne Barnes, said the donation is greatly appreciated.

"I was so surprised to be given such a lovely donation of funds ... It will certainly allow us to assist more families in need," Barnes said. "I give my most sincere thanks for the money, but also for the trust of the community who recognize our

commitment."

Casey said the funding is also a boost on the radio side, allowing them to cover broadcasting expenses such as equipment and licencing fees. However, the money is disallowed for operational expenses.

She said she expects the game to keep its popularity.

"The next run will be as good, if not

better," Casey said. "People are not going anywhere. They're still at home and it gives them something to do. Even once this is over, I think it will still carry on."

"We really appreciate people supporting radio bingo."

Tickets are available at the station or grocery and convenience stores throughout the County.

## BUSINESS ADVISORIES | COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

**Transat Travel** – Operating remotely, contact by email: linda.coneybeare@transat.com or call 705-457-3290.

**Cordell Carpet** – Open for curb-side pickup. Monday to Friday, 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca or call 705-457-2022 or cordellcarpet.ca.

**Algonquin Outfitters** – Full details of operations can be found at [algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020](http://algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020) and for Haliburton store at [algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton](http://algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton). Offering curbside pickup and rentals as well as online sales at [algonquinoutfitters.com](http://algonquinoutfitters.com) or call 1-705-457-3737 for local service.

**Outdoors Plus** – Open but can only have one person in the store at a time. Currently keeping regular hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This can change quickly, call store to make sure we are available. 705-457-3113.

**Tim Hortons** – Minden and Haliburton are open for drive-thru and walk-in take out. 12597 Highway 35, Minden & 5003 CR 21, Haliburton.

**Buckley Electric** – Open. Serving Haliburton County. Call 705-286-1134 or email [info@buckleyelectric.com](mailto:info@buckleyelectric.com).

**Abbey Gardens Food Hub** – In-store shopping available. Call/shop on-line for curbside pick-up. Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 705-754-4769 or [abbeygardens.ca/shop-online](http://abbeygardens.ca/shop-online).

**Minden Hills Rent-All** – Open by appointment for sales and service of Stihl and Cub Cadet products. Also the renting of equipment and party products. Call 705-286-3047.

**Kubota North** – Open with curbside pick up and drop off. Call 705-645-1175.

**The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre** – Remains

available to our clients, using text/telephone 705-457-4673 and email [hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca](mailto:hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca).

**John Fountain Electronics** – Hours of operation, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. / half hour those mornings for curb-side pickup.

**Up River Trading Co.** – [uprivertrading.com](http://uprivertrading.com) is open for business and we're doing curbside pickup in Minden and Haliburton on request. Call us at 705-286-1015. Our cafe remains closed during lockdown.

**The Haliburton Real Estate Team** – Is Business as (UN)Usual. We're here to help you buy or sell. Call Linda at 705-457-6508.

**County Automotive** – Open by appointment only. The office is closed to customers at this time. Drop off your vehicle only. Call 705-457-1411 or [countyautomotive@hotmail.com](mailto:countyautomotive@hotmail.com).

**Parker Pad & Printing** – Open 8.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m, Monday-Friday. We can process all orders via phone, email and digital upload. Drop off/pick up location in front vestibule. 705-457-2458 or [tracy.stoughton@parkerpad.com](mailto:tracy.stoughton@parkerpad.com).

**Fleming CREW Employment Services** – All in-person services suspended until further notice. Offering appointments virtually and by phone. Please call, email or visit website to book appointment. 705-457-2020 or [flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca](mailto:flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca) or [www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca](http://www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca).

**Taylor Carpet One** – Huntsville – Our showroom is closed but we are still open for curbside, Mon to Sat 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-789-9259 or visit [taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com](http://taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com).

**Country Rose Flowers & Garden** – Accepting prepaid orders by phone for pickup or delivery. Open Mon-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 13513 Hwy 118 W Haliburton, ON 705-457-3774.

**Lakeview Motel** – Open, however business not as usual and

we are accepting essential workers only. Call 705-457-1027 for information.

**Riverview Furniture** – Open offering curbside and delivery. Call or email 705-286-3167 or [info@riverview-furniture.com](mailto:info@riverview-furniture.com)

**Wintergreen Maple** – Open by chance or appointment (curbside) anytime your schedule allows. Call 705-286-3202.

**Subway Minden & Subway Haliburton** – Open 7 days from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for takeout and remote order pickup only.

**Glass Eagle Studios** on Blairhampton Road – During the lockdown we will be open to sell our honey. Call Tom at 705-286-3628.

**Contact North – Haliburton** – Take advantage of online workplace and skills training, high school, post-secondary programming with support from Contact North in Haliburton. Help available at 1-855-867-9528 or [www.studyonline.ca](http://www.studyonline.ca).

**WRD Cottage Rental Agency** – Still taking bookings and accepting cottage rentals for this 2021 Summer season. Call 705-457-9434.

**Walkers Heating & Cooling** – Open for 24/7 emergency service. Office closed to the public but we can be reached by calling 705-457-2375 or by emailing [info@walkershvac.com](mailto:info@walkershvac.com).

**John Francis Fuels** – We continue to provide essential services but our office is closed. Contact us at 705-286-2738 or office@[johnfrancisfuels.ca](mailto:johnfrancisfuels.ca).

**Studio Rose** – Open. Our web site has many things for pick up or shipping. Call 705-286-3383 or 705-754-5099 or at [studiorosepottery.com](http://studiorosepottery.com).

**Troy Optical** – Open, please call for appointment. 705-286-0727 or [troyoptical.com](http://troyoptical.com).

If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to [admin@thehighlander.ca](mailto:admin@thehighlander.ca). They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words. If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email [sales@thehighlander.ca](mailto:sales@thehighlander.ca).



# Highlander community

## Minden Pride gets new chair and plans for 2021

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Pride has announced a new chair for 2021 and will discuss its future during a Zoom meeting scheduled for Jan. 21.

Allan Guinan, in a Jan. 11 press release, said he has taken over the chair's seat from David Rankin, who will remain on the committee after serving in the top job for the past three years.

A cottager in Minden Hills for more than 16 years, Guinan said he and his husband have built a new home and retired to the County.

He said he brings many years of experience leading a successful Canadian design agency and has been actively involved in volunteer organizations at both the provincial and national levels.

"I have been involved with Minden Pride for two years," Guinan said. "Initially as volunteer coordinator and most recently as secretary and member of the management team. I am passionate about promoting and engaging with the local LGBTQ2+

community and continuing to build on the success achieved by Minden Pride over the past five years."

On behalf of the committee he thanked Rankin for his leadership.

To introduce Guinan and the rest of the committee, and to bring the public up to date on its purpose, plan and activities

for 2021 and beyond, Minden Pride is hosting a virtual town hall. The Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register by Tuesday, Jan. 19 at [info@mindenpride.ca](mailto:info@mindenpride.ca).

"We invite you to participate so we can hear from you: what are we doing well, what could we do better, and what would you like to see us do going forward to support LGBTQ2+ and allies in our community?" Guinan said.

Minden Pride is a volunteer

driven, non profit Haliburton County committee operating as part of Haliburton County Community Cooperative Inc. HCCC Inc.) and is comprised of residents and local business owners.

*I am passionate about promoting and engaging with the local LGBTQ2+ community and continuing to build on the success achieved by Minden Pride over the past five years."*

**Allan Guinan**  
Pride committee chair



New Minden Pride committee chair, Allan Guinan. Photo submitted.

## INFORMATION PAGE

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359 Minden ON K0M 2K0 Phone: 705-286-1260  
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### (Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**January 14** – Budget Committee Meeting

**January 28** – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.mindenhills.ca/council/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/council/).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

### Landfill Safety

Please continue to observe social distancing practices when you visit a Minden Hills waste site. Leave 2m (6ft) between yourself and others on site. Thank you!

### Notice – 2021 Budget Deliberations

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 2nd round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting via web conference scheduled for January 14, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin,  
CAO/Clerk  
705-286-1260 ext. 505  
[tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca)

### Tax Statements for Income Tax Purposes

Requests for Tax Statements can be mailed to the following address, or placed in the Township drop box labelled and located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp.

### Absolutely no cash is to be deposited in the drop box.

Township of Minden Hills, PO Box 359, #7 Milne Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Please include your name, the property roll number, a mailing address, as well as an email address and/or phone number with your request. Requests will be emailed if an email address is provided; otherwise the statement will be mailed through Canada Post.

Requests must be accompanied by a cheque for the applicable fee of \$10.00, for **each** property roll.

Requests will be processed in accordance with COVID19 safety protocols, so please allow a minimum of two (2) weeks for processing. If your request does not include all of the required information or fee, the Township will not be held responsible for any delays in providing the requested information.

### Winter Sand

Winter sand is now available at the upper parking lot of the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Community Centre, by the Skate Park. Please note this is for **Individual Use Only** – No Commercial Users please.

### Waste Reduction Tip

Switching from sandwich bags to reusable containers and jars can save you \$60-\$120 per year! Go one step further by reusing pasta and jam jars – they cost you nothing extra and last for years.

### Riverwalk Winter Usage & Wetlands Boardwalk Update

The Boardwalk is currently closed until further notice. The Logger's Crossing Bridge is cleared of snow regularly but is not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.



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Camp White Pine is seeking Cleaning and Maintenance Staff. Up to 5 months of work available, May-September. Earn up to \$25/hour. Email [info@campwhitepine.com](mailto:info@campwhitepine.com) or call 416-322-6250

### OBITUARIES



#### In Loving Memory of Waneita Caroline Miscio

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Monday, January 4, 2021, at the age of 70.

Dear mother of Teddie Pipe and his wife Melissa, Angela Paradie and her husband Jamie. Loving nana to Destiny, Tyler, Paige, Chloe, step-nana to Alyssa, Ashley, step-great nana to Sawyer and Elodie. Dear sister of Mike, Tony, June and predeceased by Terry and Donna.

A Celebration of Waneita's Life will take place at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation – Hyland Crest Residents Council (HHHSF-Hyland Crest Residents Council) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Visit our website at: [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca) for the full job description.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by  
**3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021 to:**

**Dawn Mugford-Guay,**  
**Human Resources Coordinator**  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
1123 North Shore Road  
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1  
Email: [dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca)

### Anne Willis

Peacefully on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at Pleasant Manor, in Virgil, Ontario in her 91st year. Predeceased by her husband Goldwyn (2008). Beloved mother of Warren (Audrey) and Gail (Pat). Grammy of Ryan, Shawn, Sarah, Rob, Tom, and extended family, Jenn, David and Grant. She was a cherished great-grandmother and will be lovingly remembered by her siblings Irene, Alice, Olga, Joyce, Ron, George and all of their families. She was predeceased by her sister Jean. Anne enjoyed country life in West Guilford and spending time with her best friend, Viola. She will also be missed by her loving border collie, Sonny. Our family would like to acknowledge the staff at Pleasant Manor, for their excellent care and communication. Mom was always secure and happy. Arrangements have been entrusted with Essentials Cremation and Burial Services. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be celebrated at a later date. Donations can be given to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Online condolences may be shared on Anne's tribute page found at [EssentialsNiagara.com](http://EssentialsNiagara.com)



# Highlander puzzles

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NORTH

Out Standing in his Field

One Day at a Time

Answers to the starred clues contain the key to this puzzle's theme. The title is a big hint!

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

1 \*\*\*Bright time in the eastern sky

6 "Just the facts, \_\_\_"

10 Ottawa-based spy org.

14 Stripe-legged safari sight

15 Stone of "La La Land"

16 Aid for the stymied

17 \*\*\*Sour sweets

19 Winged figure in a "cathédrale"

20 Traffic cops?

21 Coffee urn lever

23 \*\*\*Juno awards, for example

26 Initials of the Mormon Church

27 "Aw, give \_\_\_ rest!"

28 Growing industry?: Abbr.

29 Way off the wall

31 Wanda of "Curb Your Enthusiasm"

33 Bottom-register musicians

36 Et \_\_\_ (Latin "and others")

37 \*\*\*Hockey's Elias Pettersson, for one

39 Bulky barge

40 City celebrating Grey Cup 2019 (Yay Bombers!)

42 Words with "big game" or "blue streak"

43 A salami or a city

44 Verbal hand-wobble

46 Turn a driver might "pull"

47 Mama bear, in Barcelona

49 \*\*\*Clearly conspicuous things

52 Fellow in a choice phrase

54 Casual "pardon"

55 Herr's her?

56 \*\*\*Gone kerflooy

61 Slugger Mel's family

62 Beekeeper role for Peter Fonda

63 "I was with him," say

64 Comic book cheers

65 Some golf course debris

66 \*\*\*Ushered to a new table

Down

1 Costa del \_\_, Spain

2 Guitar's kid cousin, for short

3 '60s war zone, to a vet

4 Once-time link

5 They get smashed at parties

6 Comedian Rick who had a "rant"

7 Le Carré's "\_\_\_ Wanted Man"

8 Crank (up)

9 Her kneads are great

10 Tea type in some lattes

11 Social group for date-seekers

12 "\_\_\_ We Trust" (America's motto)

13 Dele breakers?

18 Put under

22 Levies not paid in the Terrs.

23 Record needles

24 Getting soaked, in two ways

25 "The Wind in the Willows" amphibian

27 "\_\_\_ it with my own eyes"

30 Laughter: Sp.

32 Article in "Der Spiegel"?

33 Beseech

34 Joint drags

35 Move to slow music

37 Use a ladle

38 Tear's partner

41 Words with "many words"

42 Until now

44 Fingernail's targets

45 Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"

47 "\_\_\_ the love of ...!"

48 Cousin of 44-Across

50 Lauder or Chandler

51 Country's Haggard

53 Scope (out)

57 Phillies' MLB div.

58 Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Innocent"

59 TV sched. uncertainty

60 Face disaster on prom day?

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SUDOKU								
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS								
5	2	6	1	7	3	8	4	9
1	9	7	5	8	4	3	2	6
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9	8	2	7	3	5	6	1	4
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55	T	56	A	T	T	E	R		57	W	I	G	S		58	S
59	S	W	O	R	D		60	H	I	G	H	C		61	L	A
62	K	O	R	E	A		63	I	M	A	T		64	A	N	T
65	S	L	E	E	T		66	S	P	R	Y		67	C	A	R



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Chris James\*

Marcia Bell\*

Anthony vanLieshout\*\*

Erin Nicholls\*

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